



Louisbourg – this great grey ghost on a bleak and rocky shore was built to save a French king's dream of empire. The year was 1713. The War of the Spanish Succession was lost, and only the shrewdness of Louis XIV's negotiators at Utrecht saved many of France's coastal colonies in North America.

To England went all of Nova Scotia (Acadia), Newfoundland, and the Hudson's Bay Company territory. Saved for France was Cape Breton Island (Ile Royale), Prince Edward Island, and the two tiny rocks called St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Alarmed at the threat to French fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the western Atlantic, as well as to her colonies inland, France belatedly determined to protect the water access to Quebec and to what lay beyond. A great fortress – Louisbourg – was planned to guard the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. The work began in 1720.

Thirty years of uneasy peace between France and England followed the Treaty of Utrecht. It gave the builders of Louisbourg time to raise the fortress and see the town it enclosed develop into a centre of commerce rivaling that of Quebec itself.

The building of the fortress was done by soldiers under the direction of two engineers, Verville and Verrier, following the principles of defence developed by the great military engineer, Vauban.

There were formidable problems to be faced at Louisiana. The rapid thaw-freeze cycle of Atlantic springtime played havoc with the mortar used by the French, and the walls of Louisiana were in need of constant repair. This problem was so acute that, during Louisiana's two sieges, the French had to demolish nearly as much from the shock of guns being fired on the ramparts as from the effects of enemy fire. The choice of the site itself added to the difficulties. Much of the fortress was built on swamp. The French had to contend not only with crumbling walls and leaky roofs, but also with the mosquitoes that swarmed in the swamps. When the British of Cape Breton is besieging Louisbourg, Louisiana can be regarded as a

A Brief History

A black and white photograph of a large, ornate building with a prominent tower and a curved roofline, likely a government or institutional structure. The building features classical architectural elements such as columns and a pediment. The tower has a conical roof and a small spire. The building is set against a light sky.

A photograph of a wine cellar. In the foreground, a table is set with several wine glasses and bottles. A bright red cloth is draped over a surface on the left. The background is dark, showing more bottles on shelves. The lighting is dim, creating a moody atmosphere.

The Reconstruction
Partial attempts at restoration were made earlier this century. As a result, the King's Bastion casemates and the foundations of

This period of reformatting was used by historians and archaeologists to build up as much data, time as possible in the location of documents, and in the excavation of archaeological sites. The task was to excavate extremely early, in the absence of co-ordinated historical data, on their terms.

Historians meanwhile, combed through archives and collections in Britain, France, Canada and the United States for every scrap of information that might shed light on that could be traced. There are now some 350,000 documents, journals, maps and plans in the Louisbourg archive.

Another aim of the research effort is to create a large and important collection of French and British artefacts excavated from the site, which will include weapons and pieces of many types, clay pipes, wares tools, building hardware, and so on.

The historical and archaeological evidence gathered reveals much about life at Louis-

The decision was made with the idea of providing employment for the displaced coal miners of Cape Breton. Having an ample work force was not a problem; what the planners needed was time, not money. Initially, then, the new work force was employed building the training and workshop facilities for the various crafts likely to be involved in the restoration. Crafts such as stalling had virtually disappeared in Canada. A French expert had to be brought in to aid in the restoration of the stalling. The stalling of the Chateau St. Louis, the hospital and the Inlandia St. Louis, the hospital and the hotel, the fortress remained a series of grassy mounds until interest in it revived again with the inception in 1980 of the federal government's program to restore at least part of Louisbourg to its 18th century appearance.

1963 and the Chateau in 1965. In 1967, construction moved outside the Citadel with the building of the Magasin General, chief storehouse for government supplies. A number of buildings have been scheduled for reconstruction in the years ahead, and planning for development of the Park has been projected through to 1976. The Park will, however, be fully operational in the summer of 1972.

the study of the French culture in North Africa, and provide an excellent base for the study of the French culture in North Africa.

The restoration effort is being directed toward a Louisbourg as it is, with 147,516 m² of stone masonry, and not as it would be, immediately before the first stage. Then the restoration was complete and relatively new; thereafter it was in a state of "unending repair and modification." Although the restoration of the fortifications was the recuperation of the 1745 fortress, the archaeological excavations often bring to light structures that did not exist at the time of the first stage but were constructed between then and 1758. This makes the research task a complex one.

In the history of architecture, the been historically and archaeologically researched, a design team consisting of historians, architectural interpreters, and, at times, engineers and anthropologists, produce preliminary design drawings.

These preliminary design drawings are produced by a department of the Engineering Section. These final drawings may range from 20 different types, in the case of a small building, to 50 or more for a large building, in the case of the Chateau St-Jean. Each averaging a year of working time.

Considering that the restoration will involve between 40 and 50 buildings and a series of massive defenses, some idea may be gained of the tremendous design task involved.

The reconstruction of the Citadel—consisting of the King's Bastion and the Chateau St-Jean—begins with the Bastion itself in



National Historic Parks

1 Dawson City, (Yukon Territory) Centre of the Klondike Gold Rush. Palace Grand Theatre and riverboat S.S. Keno preserved as national historic sites.

2 Fort Rodd Hill, (British Columbia) Nineteenth-century British coastal fortification with historic Flagstaff Lighthouse nearby.

3 Vancouver, (British Columbia) The schooner, St. Roch, first vessel to navigate the Northwest Passage from West to East; built in 1928 for the R.C.M.P.'s Arctic patrol service. It is now part of a maritime museum.

4 Fort Langley, (British Columbia) A partial reconstruction of palisaded Hudson's Bay Company post of 1802's.

5 Fort Battleford, (Saskatchewan) North West Mounted Police Post built in 1876 in the territory of the Cree Indians. Original buildings house interesting museum collection and are surrounded by a log stockade.

6 Batoche Rectory, (Saskatchewan) Headquarters of the Métis during the North West Rebellion of 1885 at Duck Lake.

7 Fort Prince of Wales, (Manitoba) The most north-westerly fortress on the North American continent built by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1723-1771. Opposite Churchill.

8 Lower Fort Garry, (Manitoba) Stone fort built by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1831-1839. Located on west bank of Red River about 20 miles north of Winnipeg.

9 Fort Malden, (Ontario) At Amherstburg, museum buildings and earthworks of a defence post built in 1792-1799 facing the Detroit River.

10 Woodside, (Ontario) At Kitchener, the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, tenth prime minister of Canada.

11 Bellevue House, (Ontario) At Kingston, home of the first prime minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald.

12 Fort Wallington, (Ontario) At Prescott, defence post built between 1812-1814, with restored block-house dating from the 1830's and museum.

13 Coteau-du-Lac, (Québec) Late 18th-century British military post and site of first canal on the St. Lawrence River at Coteau-du-Lac.

14 Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Birthplace, (Québec) House at St. Lin des Laurentides where Canada's seventh prime minister was probably born.

15 Fort Chambly, (Québec) Fort first built by French in 1665 was destroyed by fire and rebuilt between 1709-1711. It was occupied by the Americans and British. At Chambly, about 15 miles southeast of Montreal.

16 Fort Lennox, (Québec) On Ile-aux-Noix in the Richelieu River near St. Jean, an island fort, first built by the French in 1759, rebuilt by the British in 1782. Other buildings were added in 1812 and later years.

17 Fort Beauséjour, (New Brunswick) Site of early French fort and once the capital of Acadie. Later settled by British settlers from Yorkshire and

defended against the Americans in 1776. Near Sackville.

18 Port Royal, (Nova Scotia) Restoration of "Habitation" or first fort built in 1605 by Champlain, Delmon and Poulinicourt.

19 Fort Anne, (Nova Scotia) At Annapolis Royal, well-preserved earthworks of fort built by the French, 1655-1708, and enlarged by the British, 1710-1750. The museum building is a reconstruction of the Officer's Quarters built in 1737.

20 Grand Pré, (Nova Scotia) Evangelical Chapel and museum stands near the village where the principle events in the expulsion of the Acadians took place.

21 Halifax Citadel, (Nova Scotia) Nineteenth-century stone fortress, one of the largest in North America, contains three spacious museums relating to Canada's naval, military and provincial history.

22 Fortress of Louisbourg, (Nova Scotia) The French outpost on the Atlantic coast remaining to the French after the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. In 1720 work began on the defences and a sizeable town was built within its walls. Restoration of buildings and some massive defences reconstructed to the 18th-century period. About 23 miles south of Sydney.

23 Alexander Graham Bell Museum, (Nova Scotia) A large museum of original design at Baddeck contains extensive collection of relics of experiments in many scientific fields by Bell and his associates.

24 Fort Amherst, (Prince Edward Island) At Rocky Point across the harbour from Charlottetown, site of Fort La Joie, French settlement of 1720, captured by the British in 1758. Earthworks of the fort built there still visible.

25 Castle Hill, (Newfoundland) Rules of harbour fortifications begun by the French at Placentia about 1662. Interpretation centre.

26 Signal Hill, (Newfoundland) Rocky headland at entrance to St. John's harbour. Site of numerous early fortifications and the last battle during the Seven Years' War in North America. Includes John Cabot Memorial Tower.

Published by the National and under the authority of Hon. Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Catalogue No. R 64 - 369

Prepared by the National Historic Sites Service and the Conservation Group, Office of the Public Information Adviser. Design: Gotschalk & Ash Ltd.

Louisbourg and Vicinity



Fortress Area



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▲ Exhibits